State of Arizona House of Representatives Forty-fifth Legislature First Regular Session 2001

CHAPTER 353

HOUSE BILL 2008

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 11-935, 38-842, 38-847 AND 41-511.09, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS; RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Section 11-935, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

11-935. Powers and duties

- A. The commission shall supervise and control all county parks and all county recreational programs and establish and supervise law enforcement training programs for park rangers empowered to apprehend rule violators under section 11-938.
 - B. The commission may:
- 1. Direct the appointment of a full or part-time supervisor of county parks and recreational programs at a salary to be fixed by the governing body.
- 2. Make reasonable rules and regulations for the proper use, management, government and protection of, and maintenance of good order in, all public parks under its supervision and control, but such THE rules and regulations shall be related to preservation of public property, natural features and curiosities, or preservation of public health and safety in the parks and recreational areas.
- 3. Prescribe fees to be paid for the use of public parks facilities, which shall not be in excess of the amount required to improve and maintain the parks. Such THESE fees shall be approved by the governing body.
- 4. Establish broad policies and long-range programs for the acquisition, planning, development, maintenance and operation of the county parks.
- 5. Provide for the assembling and distribution of information to the public relating to programs and activities of the department.
- 6. Appoint any of its officers or employees as park ranger law enforcement officers. An appointee must meet the minimum qualifications prescribed pursuant to section 41-1822 for law enforcement officers. Park ranger law enforcement officers:
- (a) have the authority of peace officers whose AND THEIR duties shall include:
- (i) (a) Enforcing this article and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this article.
- (ii) (b) Protecting the parks and recreational areas and other public areas under the commission's supervision and control against damage.
 - (iii) (c) Preserving the peace, AND public health and safety.
- (b) Are not eligible for membership or participation in the public safety personnel retirement system.
 - Sec. 2. Section 38-842, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 38-842. <u>Definitions</u>
 - in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:
- 1. "Accidental disability" means a physical or mental condition which the local board finds totally and permanently prevents an employee from performing a reasonable range of duties within the employee's job

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classification and was incurred in the performance of the employee's duty. A finding of accidental disability shall be based on medical evidence by a doctor or clinic appointed by the local board pursuant to section 38-847, subsection D, paragraph 9 which establishes an accidental disability. Material conflicts in medical evidence shall be resolved by the findings of the local board.

- 2. "Accumulated contributions" means, for each member, the sum of the amount of the member's aggregate contributions made to the fund and the amount, if any, attributable to the employee's contributions prior to the member's effective date under another public retirement system, other than the federal social security act, and transferred to the fund minus the benefits paid to or on behalf of the member.
- 3. "Actuarial equivalent" means equality in present value of the aggregate amounts expected to be received under two different forms of payment, based on mortality and interest assumptions adopted by the fund manager. The fund manager may from time to time change the mortality and interest assumptions.
- 4. "Average monthly benefit compensation" means the result obtained by dividing the total compensation paid to an employee during a considered period by the number of months, including fractional months, in which such compensation was received. The considered period shall be the three consecutive years within the last twenty completed years of credited service which yield the highest average. In the computation under this paragraph a period of nonpaid or partially paid industrial leave shall be considered based on the compensation the employee would have received in the employee's job classification if the employee was not on industrial leave.
- 5. "Certified peace officer" means a peace officer certified by the Arizona peace officers standards and training board.
- 6. "Claimant" means any member or beneficiary who files an application for benefits pursuant to this article.
- 7. "Compensation" means, for the purpose of computing retirement benefits, base salary, overtime pay, shift differential pay and holiday pay paid to an employee on a regular monthly, semimonthly or biweekly payroll basis and longevity pay paid to an employee at least every six months for which contributions are made to the system pursuant to section 38-843, subsection D. Compensation does not include, for the purpose of computing retirement benefits, payment for unused sick leave, payment in lieu of vacation, payment for compensatory time or any other payment for fringe benefits.
- 8. "Credited service" means the member's total period of service prior to the member's effective date of participation, plus those compensated periods of the member's service thereafter for which the member made contributions to the fund.

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- 9. "Depository" means a bank in which all monies of the system are deposited and held and from which all expenditures for benefits, expenses and investments are disbursed.
- 10. "Effective date of participation" means July 1, 1968, except with respect to employers and their covered employees whose contributions to the fund commence thereafter, the effective date of their participation in the system is as specified in the applicable joinder agreement.
- 11. "Effective date of vesting" means the date a member's rights to benefits vest pursuant to section 38-844.01.
- 12. "Eligible child" means the unmarried child of a deceased member who is under the age of eighteen or a full-time student who is under the age of twenty-three or under a disability which began before the child attained the age of twenty-three and who remains a dependent of the surviving spouse or guardian.
- 13. "Eligible groups" means only the following who are regularly assigned to hazardous duty:
 - (a) Municipal police officers who are certified peace officers.
 - (b) Municipal fire fighters.
- (c) Paid full-time fire fighters employed directly by a fire district organized pursuant to section 48-803 or 48-804 with three or more full-time fire fighters, but not including fire fighters employed by a fire district pursuant to a contract with a corporation.
 - (d) State highway patrol officers who are certified peace officers.
 - (e) State fire fighters.
 - (f) County sheriffs and deputies who are certified peace officers.
 - (g) Fish and game wardens who are certified peace officers.
- (h) Police officers who are certified peace officers and fire fighters of a nonprofit corporation operating a public airport pursuant to sections 28.8423 and 28.8424. A police officer shall be designated pursuant to section 28.8426 to aid and supplement state and local law enforcement agencies and a fire fighter's sole duty shall be to perform fire fighting services, including services required by federal regulations.
- (i) Police officers who are certified peace officers and who are appointed by the Arizona board of regents.
- (j) Police officers who are certified peace officers and who are appointed by a community college district governing board.
- (k) State attorney general investigators who are certified peace officers.
 - (1) County attorney investigators who are certified peace officers.
- (m) Police officers who are certified peace officers and who are employed by an Indian reservation police agency.
- (n) Fire fighters who are employed by an Indian reservation fire fighting agency.
- (0) Police officers who are certified peace officers and who are appointed by the department of administration.

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- (p) Department of liquor licenses and control investigators who are certified peace officers.
- (q) Arizona department of agriculture officers who are certified peace officers.
- (r) ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD RANGERS AND MANAGERS WHO ARE CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICERS.
 - (s) COUNTY PARK RANGERS WHO ARE CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICERS.
- 14. "Employee" means any person who is employed by a participating employer and who is a member of an eligible group but does not include any persons compensated on a contractual or fee basis. If an eligible group requires certified peace officer status and at the option of the local board, employee may include a person who is training to become a certified peace officer.
 - 15. "Employers" means:
- (a) Cities contributing to the fire fighters' relief and pension fund as provided in sections 9-951 through 9-971 or statutes amended thereby and antecedent thereto, as of June 30, 1968 on behalf of their full-time paid fire fighters.
- (b) Cities contributing under the state police pension laws as provided in sections 9-911 through 9-934 or statutes amended thereby and antecedent thereto, as of June 30, 1968 on behalf of their municipal policemen.
- (c) The state highway patrol covered under the state highway patrol retirement system.
- (d) The state, or any political subdivision thereof, including but not limited to towns, cities, fire districts, counties and nonprofit corporations operating public airports pursuant to sections 28-8423 and 28-8424, which has elected to participate in the system on behalf of an eligible group of public safety personnel pursuant to a joinder agreement entered into after July 1, 1968.
- (e) Indian tribes which have elected to participate in the system on behalf of an eligible group of public safety personnel pursuant to a joinder agreement entered into after July 1, 1968.
- 16. "Fund" means the public safety personnel retirement fund, which is the fund established to receive and invest contributions accumulated under the system and from which benefits are paid.
- 17. "Fund manager" means the fund manager of the system, who are the persons appointed to invest and operate the fund.
- 18. "Local board" means the retirement board of the employer, who are the persons appointed to administer the system as it applies to their members in the system.
- 19." "Member" means any employee who meets all of the following qualifications:
 - (a) Who is either a full-time paid municipal police officer, a full-time paid fire fighter, a law enforcement officer who is employed by the

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 state including the director thereof, a state fire fighter who is primarily assigned to fire fighting duties, a fire fighter or police officer of a nonprofit corporation operating a public airport pursuant to sections 28-8423 and 28-8424, all ranks designated by the Arizona law enforcement merit system council, a state attorney general investigator who is a certified peace officer, a county attorney investigator who is a certified peace officer, a police officer who is appointed by the department of administration and who is a certified peace officer, a department of liquor licenses and control investigator who is a certified peace officer, an Arizona department of agriculture officer who is a certified peace officer, AN ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD RANGER OR MANAGER WHO IS A CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER, A COUNTY PARK RANGER WHO IS A CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER, a person who is a certified peace officer and who is employed by an Indian reservation police agency, a fire fighter who is employed by an Indian reservation fire fighting agency or an employee included in a group designated as eligible employees under a joinder agreement entered into by their employer after July 1, 1968 and who is or was regularly assigned to hazardous duty.

- (b) Who, on or after the employee's effective date of participation, is receiving compensation for personal services rendered to an employer or would be receiving compensation except for an authorized leave of absence.
- (c) Whose employment with an employer commenced prior to attainment of age fifty.
- (d) Whose customary employment is for more than twenty hours per week and for more than six months in a calendar year.
- (e) Who has not attained age sixty-five prior to the employee's effective date of participation or who was over age sixty-five with twenty-five years or more of service prior to the employee's effective date of participation.
- 20. "Normal retirement date" means the first day of the calendar month immediately following an employee's completion of twenty years of service or the employee's sixty-second birthday and the employee's completion of fifteen years of service.
- 21. "Ordinary disability" means a physical condition which the local board determines will prevent an employee totally and permanently from performing a reasonable range of duties within the employee's department or a mental condition which the local board determines will prevent an employee totally and permanently from engaging in any substantial gainful activity. A finding of ordinary disability shall be based on medical evidence by a doctor or clinic appointed by the local board pursuant to section 38-847, subsection D, paragraph 9 satisfactory to the local board which establishes an ordinary disability. Material conflicts in medical evidence shall be resolved by the findings of the local board.
- 22. "Pension" means a series of monthly amounts which are payable to a person who is entitled to receive benefits under the plan.

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"Regularly assigned to hazardous duty" means regularly assigned to duties of the type normally expected of municipal police officers, municipal or state fire fighters, eligible fire district fire fighters, state highway patrol officers, county sheriffs and deputies, fish and game wardens, fire fighters and police officers of a nonprofit corporation operating a public airport pursuant to sections 28-8423 and 28-8424, police officers who are appointed by the Arizona board of regents or a community college district governing board, state attorney general investigators who are certified peace officers, county attorney investigators who are certified peace officers. police officers who are appointed by the department of administration and who are certified peace officers, department of liquor licenses and control investigators who are certified peace officers, Arizona department of agriculture officers who are certified peace officers, ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD RANGERS AND MANAGERS WHO ARE CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICERS, COUNTY PARK RANGERS WHO ARE CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICERS, police officers who are certified peace officers and are employed by an Indian reservation police agency or fire fighters who are employed by an Indian reservation fire fighting agency. Those individuals who are assigned solely to support duties such as secretaries, stenographers, clerical personnel, clerks, cooks, maintenance personnel, mechanics and dispatchers are not assigned to hazardous duty regardless of their position classification title. Since the normal duties of municipal police officers, municipal or state fire fighters, eligible fire district fire fighters, state highway patrol officers, county sheriffs and deputies, fish and game wardens, fire fighters and police officers of a nonprofit corporation operating a public airport pursuant to sections 28-8423 and 28-8424, police officers who are appointed by the Arizona board of regents or a community college district governing board, state attorney general investigators who are certified peace officers, county attorney investigators who are certified peace officers, police officers who are appointed by the department of administration and who are certified peace officers, department of liquor licenses and control investigators who are certified peace officers, Arizona department of agriculture officers who are certified peace officers, ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD RANGERS AND MANAGERS WHO ARE CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICERS, COUNTY PARK RANGERS WHO ARE CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICERS, police officers who are certified peace officers and are employed by an Indian reservation police agency and fire fighters who are employed by an Indian reservation fire fighting agency are constantly changing, questions as to whether a person is or was previously regularly assigned to hazardous duty shall be resolved by the local board on a case-by-case basis. Resolutions by local boards are subject to rehearing and appeal.

24. "Retirement" means termination of employment after a member has fulfilled all requirements for a pension. Retirement shall be considered as commencing on the first day of the month immediately following a member's last day of employment or authorized leave of absence, if later.

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- 25. "Service" means the last period of continuous employment of an employee by the employers prior to the employee's retirement or the employee's sixty-fifth birthday, whichever first occurs, except that if such period includes employment during which the employee would not have qualified as a member had the system then been effective, such as employment as a volunteer fire fighter, then only twenty-five per cent of such noncovered employment shall be considered as service. Any absence which is authorized by an employer shall not be considered as interrupting continuity of employment if the employee returns within the period of authorized absence. Transfers between employers also shall not be considered as interrupting continuity of employment. Any period during which a member is receiving sick leave payments or a temporary disability pension shall be considered as service. Any period during which a person was employed as a full-time paid fire fighter by a fire district pursuant to a contract with a corporation within that fire district shall be considered as service if it is part of the person's last period of continuous employment with that corporation in that fire district and the fire district has elected to treat the period as service in its applicable joinder agreement. Any reference in this system to the number of years of service of an employee shall be deemed to include fractional portions of a year.
- 26. "State" means the state of Arizona, including any department, office, board, commission, agency or other instrumentality of the state.
- 27. "System" means the public safety personnel retirement system established by this article.
- 28. "Temporary disability" means a physical or mental condition which the local board finds totally and temporarily prevents an employee from performing a reasonable range of duties within the employee's department and which was incurred in the performance of the employee's duty. A finding of disability shall be based on medical evidence by a doctor or clinic appointed by the local board pursuant to section 38-847, subsection D, paragraph 9 which establishes a temporary disability. Material conflicts in medical evidence shall be resolved by the findings of the local board.
 - Sec. 3. Section 38-847, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 38-847. <u>Local boards</u>
- A. The administration of the system and responsibility for making the provisions of the system effective for each employer are vested in a local board. The department of public safety, the Arizona game and fish department, the department of emergency and military affairs, the university of Arizona, Arizona state university, northern Arizona university, each county sheriff's office, each county attorney's office, EACH COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT, each municipal fire department, each eligible fire district, each community college district, each municipal police department, the department of law, the department of administration, the department of liquor licenses and control, the Arizona department of agriculture, THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD, each Indian reservation police agency and each Indian reservation fire

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 fighting agency shall have a local board. A nonprofit corporation operating pursuant to sections 28-8423 and 28-8424 shall have one board for all of its members. Each local board shall be constituted as follows:

- 1. For political subdivisions or Indian tribes, the mayor or chief elected official or a designee of the mayor or chief elected official approved by the respective governing body as chairman, two members elected by secret ballot by members employed by the appropriate employer and two citizens, one of whom shall be the head of the merit system if it exists for the group of members, appointed by the mayor or chief elected official and with the approval of the governing body of the city or the governing body of the employer. The appointed two citizens shall serve on both local boards in a city or Indian tribes where both fire and police department employees are members.
- 2. For state agencies and nonprofit corporations operating pursuant to sections 28-8423 and 28-8424, two members elected by secret ballot by members employed by the appropriate employer and three citizens appointed by the governor. Each state agency local board shall elect a chairman.
- 3. For fire districts organized pursuant to section 48-804, the secretary-treasurer as chairman, two members elected by secret ballot by members employed by the fire district and two citizens appointed by the secretary-treasurer, one of whom is a resident of the fire district and one of whom has experience in personnel administration but who is not required to be a resident of the fire district.
- B. Upon the taking effect of this system for an employer, the appointments and elections of board members shall take place with one elective and appointive board member serving a term ending two years after the effective date of participation for the employer and other local board members serving a term ending four years after the effective date. Thereafter, every second year, and as a vacancy occurs, an office shall be filled for a term of four years in the same manner as previously provided.
- C. Each member of a local board shall, within ten days after the member's appointment or election, take an oath of office that, so far as it devolves upon the member, the member shall diligently and honestly administer the affairs of the local board and that the member shall not knowingly violate or willingly permit to be violated any of the provisions of law applicable to the system.
- D. Except as limited by subsection E of this section, a local board shall have such powers as may be necessary to discharge the following duties:
- 1. To decide all questions of eligibility and service credits, and determine the amount, manner and time of payment of any benefits under the system.
- 2. To prescribe procedures to be followed by claimants in filing applications for benefits.

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- 3. To make a determination as to the right of any claimant to a benefit and to afford any claimant or the fund manager, or both, a right to a rehearing on the original determination.
- 4. To request and receive from the employers and from members such information as is necessary for the proper administration of the system and action on claims for benefits and to forward such information to the fund manager.
- 5. To distribute, in such manner as the local board determines to be appropriate, information explaining the system received from the fund manager.
- 6. To furnish the employer, the fund manager, and the legislature, upon request, with such annual reports with respect to the administration of the system as are reasonable and appropriate.
- 7. To receive and review the actuarial valuation of the system for its group of members.
- 8. To receive and review reports of the financial condition and of the receipts and disbursements of the fund from the fund manager.
 - 9. To appoint medical boards as provided in section 38-859.
- 10. To sue and be sued to effectuate the duties and responsibilities set forth in this article.
- E. A local board shall have no power to add to, subtract from, modify or waive any of the terms of the system, change or add to any benefits provided by the system or waive or fail to apply any requirement of eligibility for membership or benefits under the system.
- F. A local board shall, from time to time, establish and adopt such rules as it deems necessary or desirable for its administration. All rules and decisions of a board shall be uniformly and consistently applied to all members in similar circumstances.
- G. Any action by a majority vote of the members of a local board which is not inconsistent with the provisions of the system shall be final, conclusive and binding upon all persons affected by it unless a timely application for a rehearing or appeal is filed as provided in this article.
- H. A claimant or the fund manager may apply for a rehearing before the local board within the time period prescribed in this subsection. An application for a rehearing shall be filed in writing with a member of the local board or its secretary within sixty days after:
- 1. The applicant-claimant receives notification of the local board's original action by certified mail, by attending the meeting at which the action is taken or by receiving benefits from the system pursuant to the local board's original action, whichever occurs first.
- 2. The applicant-fund manager receives notification of the local board's original action by certified mail or by receipt of written directions from the local board pursuant to its original action, whichever occurs first.
- I. A hearing before a local board on a matter remanded from the superior court is not subject to a rehearing before the local board.

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- J. Decisions of local boards are subject to judicial review pursuant to title 12, chapter 7, article 6.
- K. When making a ruling, determination or calculation, the local board shall be entitled to rely upon information furnished by the employer, the fund manager, independent legal counsel, or the actuary for the system.
- L. Each member of a local board is entitled to one vote. A majority of the appointed and elected members is necessary for a decision by the members of a local board at any meeting of the local board.
- M. The local board shall adopt such bylaws as it deems desirable. The local board shall elect a secretary who may, but need not, be a member of the local board. The secretary of the local board shall keep a record and prepare minutes of all meetings, forward the minutes to the fund manager within forty-five days after each meeting and forward all necessary communications to the fund manager.
- N. The fees of the medical board and of local legal counsel and all other expenses of the local board necessary for the administration of the system shall be paid by the employer at such rates and in such amounts as the local board shall approve.
- O. The local board shall issue directions to the fund manager concerning all benefits which are to be paid from the employer's account pursuant to the provisions of the fund. The local board shall keep on file, in such manner as it may deem convenient or proper, all reports from the fund manager and the actuary.
- P. The local board and the individual members of the local board shall be indemnified from the assets of the employer's account in the fund against any and all liabilities arising by reason of any act, or failure to act, made in good faith pursuant to the provisions of the system, including expenses reasonably incurred in the defense of any claim relating to the act or failure to act.
- Sec. 4. Section 41-511.09, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

41-511.09. <u>Maintenance and protection of parks; law enforcement training</u>

- A. The board may appoint one or more of its officers or employees as a park ranger law enforcement officer. Any person so appointed shall have the minimum qualifications established for peace officers and police officers pursuant to section 41-1822. When so appointed, the officer or employee shall have the authority and power of a peace officer with the primary duties of enforcement of the provisions of this article and enforcement of rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this article, for the protection of the parks and monuments against damage and for the preservation of peace therein IN THE PARKS AND MONUMENTS.
- 8. Officers and employees appointed as peace officers pursuant to this section shall not be eligible for membership or for participation in the public safety personnel retirement system.

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Sec. 5. Appropriations: purpose

The sum of \$209,400 is appropriated from the state parks enhancement fund established by section 41-511.11, Arizona Revised Statutes, in fiscal years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 to the Arizona state parks board for the purpose of making employer contributions to the public safety personnel retirement system on behalf of Arizona state parks board rangers and managers who are certified peace officers.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY 7, 2001.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 7, 2001.

Passed the House March 19,2001	Passed the Sen	ate April	127	_,20
by the following vote: 51 Aye		ng vote:	,	Ayes,
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Speaker of the House Pro Tempere Horman L. Moore	N_{i}	Sma Lo	wl	
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HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS AND FINAL PASSAGE by the following vote: **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA** OFFICE OF GOVERNOR This Bill was received by the Governor this day of Approved this _ **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA** OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE This Bill was received by the Secretary of State H.B. 2008

Secretary of State